

Serial No.: 10/825,799

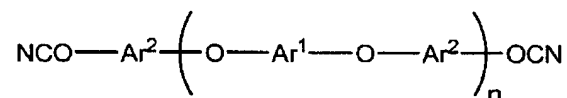
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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A cyanate ester comprising the formula:



wherein  $\text{Ar}^1$  is a divalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted o-phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted p-phenyl;

wherein  $\text{Ar}^2$  is a divalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring, substituted or unsubstituted fused aromatic rings, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring assembly with or without intervening groups, and combinations thereof, with the proviso that when  $\text{Ar}^2$  is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, then  $\text{Ar}^1$  is substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl,  $\text{Ar}^2$  is substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl, or both; and

wherein  $n$  is a positive integer.

22. (canceled)

23. (original) The cyanate ester of claim 21, wherein  $\text{Ar}^2$  is selected from the group consisting of a phenyl, an m-phenyl, a biphenyl, a 4,4'-biphenyl, and a bisphenol residue.

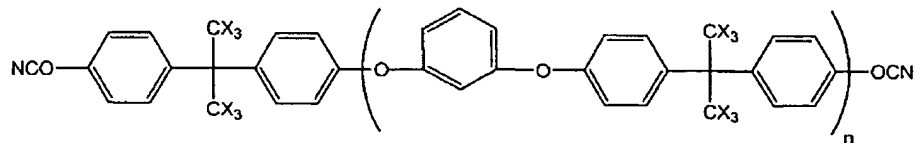
24. (original) The cyanate ester of claim 21, wherein  $n$  is from 1 to 10.

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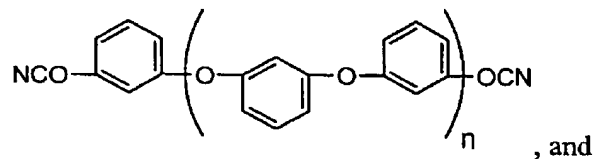
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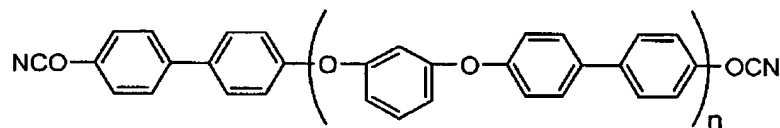
25. (previously presented) The cyanate ester of claim 21, wherein the cyanate ester is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein each X is independently selected from the group consisting of H and F,



, and

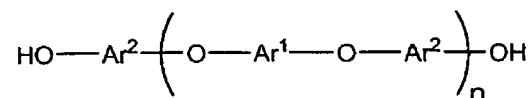


26. (canceled)

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27. (withdrawn) A process comprising the steps of:  
providing an oligomer comprising the formula:



wherein  $\text{Ar}^1$  is a divalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted o-phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted p-phenyl;

wherein  $\text{Ar}^2$  is a divalent aromatic radical and  $\text{Ar}^2$  are independently selected divalent aromatic radicals selected from the group consisting of a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring, substituted or unsubstituted fused aromatic rings, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring assembly without intervening groups, and combinations thereof, with the proviso that when  $\text{Ar}^2$  is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, then  $\text{Ar}^1$  is substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl,  $\text{Ar}^2$  is substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl, or both; and

wherein n is a positive integer; and

reacting the oligomer with a cyanide compound in the presence of a base to form -OCN end groups on the oligomer.

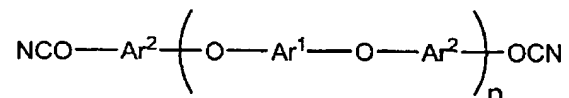
28. (withdrawn) The process of claim 27, wherein the cyanide compound is cyanogen bromide.

29-33. (canceled)

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34. (withdrawn) A process comprising the steps of:  
providing a cyanate ester comprising the formula:



wherein  $\text{Ar}^1$  is a divalent aromatic radical selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted o-phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl, and substituted or unsubstituted p-phenyl;

wherein  $\text{Ar}^2$  is a divalent aromatic radical and  $\text{Ar}^2$  are independently selected  
divalent aromatic radicals selected from the group consisting of a  
substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring, substituted or unsubstituted  
fused aromatic rings, a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic ring assembly  
with or without intervening groups, and combinations thereof, with the  
proviso that when  $\text{Ar}^2$  is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, then  $\text{Ar}^1$  is  
substituted or unsubstituted m-phenyl,  $\text{Ar}^2$  is substituted or unsubstituted  
m-phenyl, or both; and

wherein n is a positive integer; and

curing the cyanate ester to a thermoset.

35. (withdrawn) The process of claim 34, wherein the curing is done by heating the cyanate ester.
36. (withdrawn) The process of claim 34, wherein the curing is done in the presence of a curing additive selected from the group consisting of a metal acetylacetonate, a transition metal salt, copper (II) acetylacetonate, chromium (III) acetylacetonate, manganese (III) acetylacetonate, 1,3-bis(3-aminophenoxy)benzene, alcohol, a phenol, and amine.